

Ephraim Harding House
South Pamet Road
Truro
Barnstable County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-714

HABS
MASS,
1-TRU,
18-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

EPHRAIM HARDING HOUSE

HABS No. MA-714

Location: South Pamet Road, 3/4 mile east of Truro Town Center.
Truro.
Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

Present Owner: Edward A. Wilson.
South Pamet Road, Truro, Massachusetts.

Present Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Wilson.

Present Use: Permanent residence.

Significance: Cape Cod "house and a half", four bay, frame construction typical of other Cape Cod houses in this area. This is located within the area of the proposed National Seashore on Cape Cod.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Location About 3/4 of a mile east of Truro Town Center, on the north side of South Pamet Road, in the Town of Truro, County of Barnstable, Massachusetts.

Present owner Edward A. Wilson, South Pamet Road, Truro, Mass.

Present occupant Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Wilson.

Present use Permanent residence.

Significance Cape Cod "house and a half", 4 bay, frame construction typical of other Cape Cod houses in this area. This is located within the area of the proposed National Seashore on Cape Cod.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Original and subsequent owners The present owner related that in 1823 one of the Hardings married a Miss Dyer, and the property remained in possession of their heirs and finally passed to Frank Shay from whom the present owner obtained the property in 1922, and since 1948 have used it as a permanent residence.

Date of erection Possibly 1823.

Architect Unknown.

Builder Unknown.

Original plans None known to exist.

Alterations and additions Modern all added to north of house since 1948.

Historical events connected with structure None discovered to date however the Dyers and Hardings were "old family" Cape Cod people and figured prominently in the development of this part of the Cape. Also, present owner, "Eddie" Wilson, former art director of Life magazine, and famous artist, has his studio just west of the house.

Important old views Present owner has old photos of the house when they bought it, in the 1920's and there are pasted in the front of a picture album in their possession.

Sources of information Present owner.

Likely sources not yet investigated Local historians, particularly Mrs. Ruth Dyer; Truro Town Records; Barnstable County Records.

Prepared by Charles S. Dotts
Charles S. Dotts, Architect
HABS Cape Cod Survey I
August 24, 1960

PART II ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural interest and merit A good example of a Cape Cod "house and a half" (4 bays) located within the area of the proposed Cape Cod National Seashore.

Condition Excellent. The house and grounds have been kept in very good condition.

THE EXTERIOR

Overall dimensions 26 x 28 feet.

Foundations Brick.

Wall construction Post and beam, shingle exterior, exposed 5" to weather.

Porches, stoops, Brick and concrete, not original.

Chimneys One brick over central part of original house. One over new addition at rear.

Openings - doorways and doors 6 panel wood door, with 4 light transom at front entrance, 4 panel door with 4 light transom at back entrance.

windows and shutters 9/6 light in wood double hung sash, 7" x 9" lights. Wood louvered shutters.

Roof - shape, covering. Gabled, pitched, shingle covering.
Construction Wood truss.

cornice, eaves wood, box cornice. Narrow eaves.

dormers None.

THE INTERIOR

Floor plans Front door on south is flanked with a two window front room on the east and a one window front room on the west. Back of the west room is a hall entry way with side or rear entrance.

The original kitchen is located at the rear of the house, but its use now is a living room. The buttery and small bed room are located on the east side of the house beside the original kitchen. The stairs to the second floor lead to the east, between the buttery and small bed room. An ell addition to the north houses the modern kitchen, bath room and bed room. The second floor consists of two bed rooms and half bath, all redone by the present owner. There is a circular brick cellar 8'-7" in diameter under the buttery and small bed room at the east part of the house.

Stairways, One to second floor, narrow, steep.

Flooring Random width pine, painted, boards are 3" to 24" wide.

wall and ceiling finish Plaster with wood wainscot walls, plaster ceiling.

Doorways and doors 6 panel interior wood doors.

Trim Mitered trim at doors and windows.

Hardware, some old latches, front door, cupboards, some old H hinges on cupboards.

Lighting Electric.

Heating Forced air, oil furnace, wall ducts. East room fireplace and original kitchen fireplace.

SITE

Orientation The house faces south with the ridge parallel to the road in an excellent setting with good landscaping, informal.

Enclosures Hedge fence between house and road.

Walks, driveways, Stepping stones, blacktop drive from road to U shaped driveway in front of barn-studio.

Landscaping, gardens This is one of the most pleasant places in Truro, much care was taken in the planting and arranging of the site.

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References:

Measured Drawings, Cape Cod Survey I, Eastham Field Station,
Summer, 1960.